



countdown

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Unexpected weather scrubs STS-128 launch



◆ **Shuttle Update:** After a smooth countdown, inclement weather spoiled the anticipated launch of space shuttle Discovery early this morning. The clouds seen above were just the start of rain and lightning that violated the limitations for liftoff. Another launch attempt is scheduled for 1:10 a.m. Wednesday.

◆ **ELV Update:** The STSS-Demo launch vehicle, a Delta II, was powered on last week for state of health checks and associated testing. Configuring the pad for launch is under way. The STSS-Demo payload is planned to arrive at the pad for hoisting atop the Delta II this week. Spacecraft ground support equipment was brought to the pad last week in preparation for spacecraft arrival.

■ **Stephen Colbert Message** — If you missed the message from Stephen Colbert on the eve before the STS-128 launch attempt on Tuesday, you can see it at: <http://www.youtube.com/NASATelevisi on>.

For more information about the COLBERT treadmill, visit: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/behindscenes/colberttreadmill.html.

Philatelic Cancellations: 40th Anniversary of First Man on the Moon

The Postal Service offers pictorial postmarks to commemorate local events celebrated in communities throughout the nation. The Postal Service is sponsoring two pictorial postmarks commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first man on the moon, Launch July 16, 2009, and 40th anniversary of the first man on the moon, Landing July 20, 2009. Due to delays in fabricating those postmarks, the Postal Service has extended the deadline for requests 30 additional days to Sept. 16 and 20, respectively.

Request for cancellation may be presented to the KSC Post Office in HQ/Room 1538 or the U. S. Post Office on Merritt Island. Customers must specify which cancellation date they are requesting for the first-class postage affixed to an envelope or postcard.

For further information, contact the KSC Post Office at 867-3752.

■ **It Takes Teamwork** — Mark your calendar: From 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Sept. 10, KSC will feature guest speaker Coach Herman Boone, who will share his inspiring story that was captured in the Disney film, "Remember the Titans." Coach Boone's personal story about respect, teamwork, community involvement and importance of character is truly inspirational and will remind us all, "It Takes Teamwork!" Directly following the presentation, participants can join in a "tailgate gathering" with food and games. Seating allocations have been distributed.

In preparation of special presenter Coach Boone coming to speak to KSC employees, the Office of Diversity and

STSS-Demo spacecraft moves to pad this week

Equal Opportunity is hosting a "Straight Talk Session" on race relations and teamwork and a viewing of the film "Remember the Titans." Join in this special session of Straight Talk on Wednesday 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Seating is limited. Please register in SATERN.

■ **NASA News** — NASA and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, or AFOSR, have successfully launched a small rocket using an environmentally-friendly, safe propellant comprised of aluminum powder and water ice, called ALICE.

Using ALICE as fuel, a nine-foot rocket soared to a height of 1,300 feet over Purdue University's Scholer farms in Indiana earlier this month. The propellant has a high burn rate and achieved a maximum thrust of 650 pounds during this test.

ALICE is generating excitement among researchers because this energetic propellant has the potential to replace some liquid or solid propellants. When it is optimized, it could have a higher performance than conventional propellants.

According to a research team member, theoretically, ALICE can be manufactured in distant places like the moon or Mars, instead of being transported to distant locations at high cost.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barret@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.